

The recent decision by Sinclair Broadcasting to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the misuse of the media by an overly consolidated industry.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves at no direct cost, and presumably is obligated thereby law to provide reasonable service to the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.